

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 and 12-20 are canceled by way of this amendment; Claims 6-11 are currently amended. The subject matter of Claim 1 has been incorporated into amended Claims 6-11. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1-5 and 12-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Petite et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,437,692). Claims 6-11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication that Claims 6-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

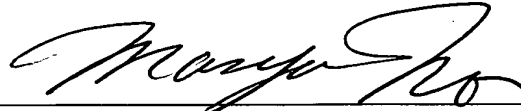
In response, Claims 6-11 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of base Claim 1, and Claims 1-5 and 12-20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the outstanding prior art rejections are rendered moot and Claims 6-11 are in condition for allowance.

Application No. 09/878,406
Reply to Office Action of March 30, 2005

If the Examiner believes any additional formal matter needs to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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